

DCI
5 June 1986
0800 hours

- Opportunity for inquiry go express why necessary to take steps to avoid public disclosure of sensitive classified information.

- All of us in the American Intelligence Community, at all levels, are gravely concerned about damage being done to our intelligence capabilities by unauthorized disclosures of sensitive information. We have already lost capabilities critical to protecting innocent civilians and our installations overseas from terrorist attacks.

- Over recent years we have spent billions of dollars and trained thousands of splendid people to restore the finest intelligence service in the world. Yet every method we have of acquiring intelligence -- our agents, our relationships with other intelligence services, our photographic, electronic and communications tracking capabilities -- has been damaged as disclosures of sensitive information enables our adversaries to defeat our growing capabilities.

- Sober analysis of what is at stake in this issue and how it can be addressed without infringing on the essential role of the media in providing the public the information it needs for the self government of our nation. We yield to no one in our admiration for the diligence and ingenuity of the working press in gathering and publishing news. We applaud its exposure of waste, inefficiency, corruption and other misconduct.

- What we are talking about here is not malfeasance, wrong doing, waste, fraud, abuse or mismanagement. We are talking about unique fragile sources of information that enable the United States to protect itself in a very

unfriendly world. There have been no allegations that these collection activities have been mismanaged or that any wrong doing has been involved. The only reason that they are being revealed in the press is because they are sensational. As a nation we are paying a heavy price for such sensationalism.

- We believe a great many journalists and others in the media recognize that the nation has a problem which must be dealt with responsibly. It is essential to differentiate between the very serious damage done to the nation's security through the publication of leaked sensitive intelligence and the need for the American public to possess as much information as possible to make informed judgments about the conduct of the government's business.